



TRANSMITTER

LOCAL 3902



Volume 29, Number 4

Birmingham, Alabama

April, 2010

Official Publication of Local 3902, Communications Workers of America – AFL-CIO

PRESIDENTIAL

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AT&T Wireless started their negotiations on March 29th, 2010. A strike vote was mailed out on March 31st. Their contract expires on April 16, 2010. Please remember that we are all CWA sisters and brothers. Support your wireless family in their struggle to get a fair contract.

CWA played a big part in getting health care reform through Congress, and President Obama invited CWA President Larry Cohen to the White House for the official bill signing to recognize that hard work.

"After decades of working for quality health care for all, this bill moves us forward and provides a framework for future improvements," Cohen said.

Through CWA's Health Care SIF campaign, thousands of CWAers called, wrote, participated in town hall meetings and visited their members of Congress. They told their senators and representatives how they worried about skyrocketing health care costs and whether they would be able to maintain their health care benefits.

They talked about how being laid off meant losing affordable health care. Retired workers wondered how they would pay sky-high premiums until they were eligible for Medicare, or how they would afford their prescription drugs when they reached the "donut" hole in Medicare's drug coverage.

Health Care reform takes away a lot of these worries for working families. To read more about Health Care reform; please visit the CWA website at:

[www/cwa-union.org/news/Health Care Reform Moves Us Forward](http://www/cwa-union.org/news/Health_Care_Reform_Moves_Us_Forward)

In Unity,
Rhonda Taylor, President



EXECUTIVE'S



Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO
THE COMMUNITY-MINDED UNION

**D
G
E**

Why at&t Can Change Retiree Healthcare

In 1971, the Supreme Court ruled in a case known as "Pittsburg Plate Glass", that retiree healthcare for those already retired is a **permissive** subject of bargaining. The company can bargain with us if they choose to, but they are not required to.

In 1983, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, inferred in a case between the UAW and Yard Man, that retiree benefits were vested and companies had to maintain them. The Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal and **Yard Man** became the standard for many years. Most companies continued to bargain for retirees even though no legal mandate required them to do so. But whether they bargained or not, the retiree plans were generally okay. **Things changed drastically after 2001.**

George W. Bush appointees shifted the Appeals Courts decidedly toward corporations. In January, 2001, the Appeals Courts consisted of 77 Democrats and 74 Republicans, with 27 vacancies. By the end of 2008, Bush appointees skewed the Courts squarely to big business, consisting of 65 Democrats, 102 Republicans, and only 11 vacancies.

Subsequent rulings by the Appeals Courts, have favored the companies. As a result, Yard Man is no longer the standard. Thanks to the **Bush courts**, companies can now alter most healthcare plans for retirees as they choose. Sadly, big business may control our courts for years to come. Many of you have asked how you might make a difference.

New justices are being nominated now to fill vacancies in every court, including the Supreme Court. If **Glenn Beck, Rush Limbaugh**, and other **puppets for big business** wail and wine, we know the nominee is okay. They support corporate kingpins like at&t's **Randall Stephenson**. Corporate advertising makes them very rich, at our expense.

Write Senators Shelby and Sessions and your Congressman to **demand** they support nominees that support people.

Steve Monk
EVP

The Supreme Court cases cited can be found via numerous internet sources. (Pittsburg Plate Glass v. Allied Chemical & Alkali Workers of America Local 1). (UAW v. Yardman); also see Boston College Law Review Volume 42, pages 1215-1262 by Douglas Sondgerott at: <http://www.bc.edu/bc org/avp/law/lwsch/journals/bclawr/42 5/05 TXT.htm> as source material.

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BAPCO

Y T E S

AT&T ADVERTISING SOLUTIONS (BAPCO)

At&T Advertising Solutions has called for a 2nd quarter surplus, effective, June 25th. This is a view of more of the same to come.

If you do not have a financial advisor, please take the time NOW, to contact one or more, to see who fits well with you.

On a sadder note, we had to say "Good-Bye", to one of our own, Wayne Breland, at such a young age. Please continue to pray for his children and his family. We will miss you, Wayne.

In Unity,
Vernice H. Harris
Dept. Rep

S-A-F-E-T-Y

**"NO JOB IS SO IMPORTANT, NO SERVICE IS SO URGENT
THAT WE CAN NOT TAKE TIME TO PERFORM OUR WORK SAFELY"**

Safety Committee

Johnny McCollum
James Ehlers
Claude L. Perry
Walter Long

Greetings to all....

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WIRELESS REPORT

Did you see what I saw???? I saw several business articles with the head line: **AT&T CEO accepts bonus; pay rises to \$20.2 M.** That's right, all of our hard work, working directly with the customers, to increase the revenue and maintain our reputation, to make sure our rate of penetration and return on operations is more than satisfactory, and all that we do to make at&t a profitable company...is going directly into Randall Stephenson pocket! Should that be one of our 4R's...to make Randall richer? With mobility going into bargaining now we need to make sure it's known that just a couple of those millions could cover a significant raise to the employees of the entity that brings in the majority of the revenue. It's ridiculous that we are on the bottom of the pay scales, yet required to pay more in insurance. This is the time that we have to show our support, for both our bargaining team as well as the CWA as a whole. We have to show the company there is strength in numbers and that if management doesn't want to enter into FAIR bargaining, we can make them regret it. So, if you haven't done so yet...join the union, it's more important now than ever for us to show we are united in order to bargain for a good...BETTER contract!!!

Jeneen Patrick
CWA-VP

“THANK YOU”

We, the Building Board of Trustees, would like to thank each and every member who supported the clean-up on, Saturday, March 20th, 2010. With all of the busy schedules, we have on an everyday basis, your support was greatly appreciated.

AT&T Southeast PARTNERSHIP Program for Represented Employees

Program Overview

Available for AT&T Southeast represented employees (regular full-time and regular part-time who have 6 months of service), the Employment Security PARTNERSHIP supports employees in their efforts to enhance their personal growth and build job skills within and outside of the company.

Employees and their jobs will continue to be affected by technological developments and structural changes, therefore CWA and AT&T, realize the need for ongoing employee development, career preparations and career transition. The PARTNERSHIP Program is intended to benefit our employee body because we acknowledge that employees represent our best competitive advantage.

The PARTNERSHIP Program Includes:

- Employee Orientation Meetings
- Educational Assistance for degree programs, certificate programs and non-company courses
- Customized Courses
- Career Counseling & Assessment
- Correspondence / PC Courses
- Job Bank

All regular, active full-time and regular part-time employees with at least 6 months of net credited service are eligible to participate in the PARTNERSHIP Program.

If you are interested in classes through PARTNERSHIP, please contact me at the Local at (205) 945-1979 or email: partnership@cwalocal3902.org

Katrina Whitely,
Partnership Field Representative



Labor

CALENDAR

April



4 Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in 1968 while helping striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn.

12 Florence Reece, active in Harlan County, Ky. coal strikes and author of the famous labor song "Which Side Are You On," was born in 1900.

12 In 1939, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* was published. The novel of social protest dramatized the story of "Okies" ---- workers who migrated from Oklahoma's dust bowl to the groves of California ---- and experienced tremendous hardships and exploitation along the way.

15 A. Philip Randolph, an African-american and one of the most influential trade unionists in the U.S. labor movement, was born in 1889. The organizer and president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porter, an all-black union, Randolph said: "The essence of trade unionism is uplift. The labor movement traditionally has been the haven for the dispossessed, the despised,

the neglected, the downtrodden, and the poor."

20 In 1914, company gunmen attacked a tent colony of striking miners and their families in Colorado, setting it ablaze and killing 19 men, women and children in what is remembered as the Ludlow Massacre.

27 James Oppenheim's poem, "Bread and Roses," was published in *Industrial Solidarity* in 1946. "Our lives shall not be sweated/from birth until life closes/heart starve as well as bodies; give/us bread, but give us roses," the poem reads. It was penned after Oppenheim saw a sign held by young mill girls picketing in the 1912 strike against woolen companies in Lawrence, Mass.

NOTICE

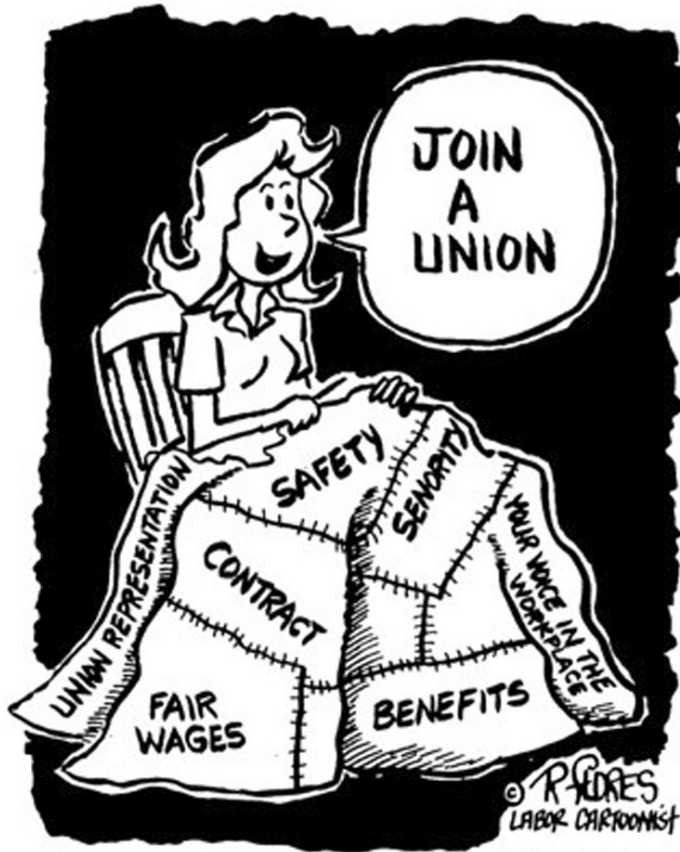
We will have nominations for delegates to the National Convention at the April Membership Meeting.

Also,

During the October 2009, monthly meeting, the membership accepted a motion that changed the publication dates of the Transmitter. The local newsletter will now be sent out once a quarter. However, you have a greater opportunity to receive information by accessing the new CWA Local 3902 website at www.cwalocal3902.org. The new site was designed with the idea of having a way for all departments and committees to get relevant information out to our members as it is happening.

Please look at your department and committee's of interest on our web page for up to date news and events. If any member would like to discontinue receiving a mailed copy of the Transmitter and start accessing it by the internet, please contact the local at (205) 945-1979.

Remember to start checking the website for current information.



www.laborart.com

*Join
and
Support*

CWA Local 3902!



We welcome the following members to Local 3902. Whether you have just joined CWA or are transferring from another Local, we are glad to have you as members. See you at the next membership meeting!

AT&T Mobility

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Jabari A. Brown | New Member |
| John Foster | New Member |
| Quintara Hammonds | New Member |
| Leah Sweet | New Member |
| James Turner III | New Member |

BST

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| James M. Bloodworth | New Member |
| David C. Graham | Reinstated |

DSL

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Jessica Anderson | New Member |
| Michelle Barton | New Member |
| Richard Cairnes | New Member |
| Gregory Campbell | New Member |
| Sarah Drake | New Member |
| Mieosha Glasco | New Member |
| Ericka Hall | New Member |
| Kendra Johnson | New Member |
| Robyn Lawrence | New Member |
| Rhonda Marbury | New Member |
| Sean Martin | New Member |
| Therman Moore | New Member |
| Katheryn Omelczenko | New Member |
| Tiara Peterson | New Member |
| Amber Pope | New Member |
| Cyresa Price | New Member |
| Rolanda Seay | New Member |
| Ashley Tory | New Member |
| LaToya Walker | New Member |

CINGULAR

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Antoinette Austin | New Member |
| Christy Baker | New Member |
| Angel Bester | New Member |

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

- Charity Beverly New Member
- Alexis C. Bonner New Member
- Kerry Brackett New Member
- Thomas Bureson New Member
- Jarrid Coaxum New Member
- LaTangerick Crowley New Member
- Kendria Cumbie New Member
- Maurice Dunning New Member
- Tiffany Durrah New Member
- Ashley D. George New Member
- Zsaquise Glenn New Member
- Brandi Hallaway New Member
- Brittany Hutcherson New Member
- Samesha Jones New Member
- Madeko Laprade New Member
- Javan Lee New Member
- Ashley Lumpkin New Member
- Endia Lyons New Member
- Dianna McGhee New Member
- Joseph Maddox New Member
- Christopher Meyer New Member
- Stephen Namie New Member
- Jennifer Pickett New Member
- Tessie Prewitt New Member
- Jamila Pugh New Member
- Ashley Rose New Member
- Brandon Rose New Member
- Jessica Saulsberry New Member
- Ricky N. Sims II New Member
- Athenee Sterling New Member
- Abrenica Stewart New Member
- Raven Sutton New Member
- Michael Trussell New Member
- Torria Walker New Member
- Curtisa Williams New Member



The officers and members of CWA Local 3902 would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to these Brothers and Sisters who have lost loved ones.

- Lori Holloway Mother-In-Law
- Pam Ralph Father
- Sherry Knox Father
- Jeff Washburn Mother
- Taisha Rogers Grandmother
- Bett Nelson Father
- Amy G. Maher Retired Member
- Bridget Heard Mother-In-Law
- Giles Aaron Huffman (Ret'd Med) Wife
- Diane Johnson Agee Sister
- Sonja Abbott (Ret'd Mem) Cousin
- Molethia Lomax Grandmother
- Beatrice Lomax (Ret'd Mem) Mother-In-Law
- Mose Lomax (Dec) (Ret'd Mem) .. Mother
- Georgia Isbell (Ret'd Mem) Sister
- Elan Barefield Sister-In-Law
- Wayne Breland Member



RETIREES

- Myra Elrada
- Brenda Bufford
- Lynn Jackson Bates
- Debbie Talley-Taylor
- Dinetta Gay (Lykes)
- Loretta Ford



Our next monthly Retiree's meeting is on, April 27th, 2010 at 11 AM, at the Union office, 210 Summit Pkwy in Homewood. Please bring your favorite covered dish. If you don't have one, come anyway, we love to share. Invite other retirees to join us for lunch and fellowship.

In Unity,
Louise White, Pres. RMC



**WINNERS FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 2010**

\$100 - Barbara Youngblood

T-SHIRTS

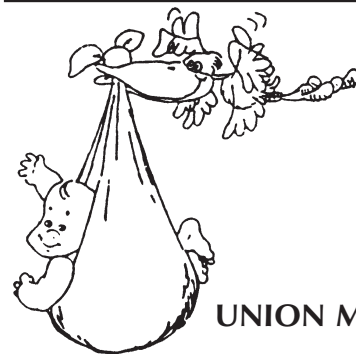
- Regina Pearson, Cindy Jones,
- Phillip Henderson, Robert Gann,
- Jonathan Pilkington, Wendy Cochran,
- Pam Jenkins, Louise White,
- Sharon Booker, Ray Russell

**WINNERS FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MARCH 2010**

\$100 - Sarah Walton

T-SHIRTS

- Jeneen Patrick, Ben D. King,
- Butch Wilkinson, Freddie McDuffee,
- JoAn Cunningham, Terry Aycock,
- Sharon Booker, Preston Pratt,
- Melanie Edward, Larry J. Smith



UNION MADE

Khalil Jarrod Wilson

Born February 10, 2010
At 6lbs. 11oz.

Proud Mother Jameica Wilson
Proud Grandmother Donna Deshazer
works at the Teleconference Center in
Forestdale

William Blakely George

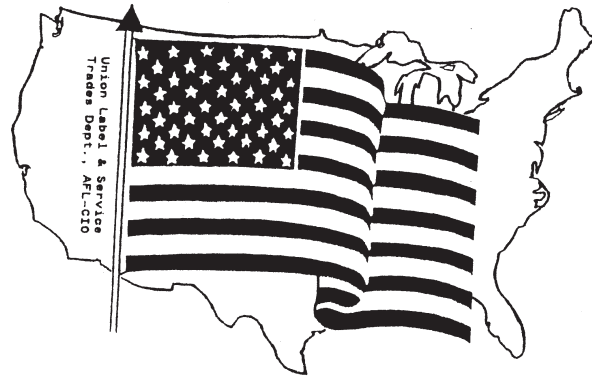
Born February 19, 2010
At 3lbs. 12oz.

Baby is home with proud parents
Brian & Melanie George
Proud Grandparents Bill & Jackie Trice





"We missed you at the membership meeting!!!"



**Emergency Contact:
205-948-3924**

Regular Monthly Membership Meeting

April 27, 2010

Time: 7:00 P.M.

**PLACE: Local Union Meeting Hall
210 Summit Parkway**

DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS

AT&T / AVAYA
April 27, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.

BAPCO
April 27, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.

CINGULAR
April 27, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.

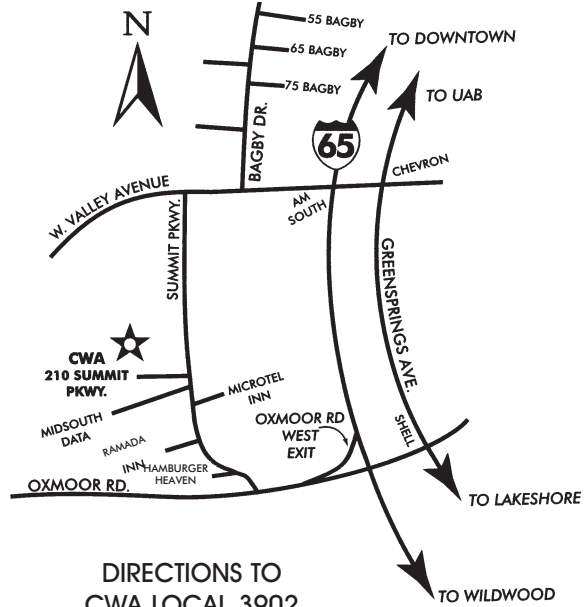
CONSUMER/FIN./SM. BUS./BBI
April 27, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.

INTERCONNECT/PUBLIC/OPR. SVC./ SECURITY
April 27, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.

NETWORK/BCS/UTILITY
April 27, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.

RETIRES
April 27, 2010 - 11:00 A.M.

*Regular meetings are subject to date and/or time changes. Special meetings may be called. Be sure to check your bulletin boards.



**DIRECTIONS TO
CWA LOCAL 3902
210 SUMMIT PARKWAY
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35209**

**Your Presence at the April Meeting is Requested.
Please Join Us for Your Chance to Win
\$100 or 1 of 10 T-Shirts!**

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